



Bristol Parks Forum

representing resident led parks groups and city wide organisations
involved in protecting and improving Bristol's green spaces

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2013

at Windmill Hill City Farm

Attendees

AB - Alison Bromilow – RCAS; **AC – Andre Coutanche** – MUCG; **BB – Ben Barker** – Dame Emily Park Project; **BF - Bob Franks** - Northern Slopes Initiative; **CH - Cheryl Hawkins** - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CS – Clive Stevens** – Tree Forum, **CW – Chris Williams** – Snuff Mills Action Group, **DH - Derek Hawkins** - Friends of Stoke Lodge; **DP - Diana Porter** - Bedminster Down & Uplands Society, **GB - Gill Brown** - Civic Society; **GD – Gemma Dando** – Neighbourhood Partnership; **GH - Cllr Gary Hopkins** - Friends of Redcatch Park, **HH – Hugh Holden** – Mina Road Park Group; **JC - Jane Cunningham** - Walking for Health, **JS – John Scott** – Friends of Redcatch Park; **JT – Julian Thomas** – BCC/Friends of Eastwood Farm; **LG - Lois Goddard** - Redland Green Community Group, **MH – Marie Hodge** – Friends of Brislington Brook; **ML - Mark Logan** - Snuff Mills Action Group, **MM – Mick Mack** – SPAG; **MP – Matt Postles** – BNHC; **NC - Nancy Carlton** - Kingfisher Group; **NV – Nicolette Vincent** – Friends of Brandon Hill; **RAC - Rob Acton-Campbell** - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RB - Roland Bruce** - Mina Road Park Group; **RE – Richard Ennion** - BCC, Trees; **RF – Richard Fletcher** – Bristol City Council, **SAC - Susan Acton-Campbell** - Friends of Troopers Hill; **WP - Wendy Pollard** - Avon Gardens Trust

Apologies

Steve England – SPAG; Jo Corke – Friends of St Andrews; John Mayne – Friends of St Andrews; Eileen Stonebridge – Friends of Old Sneed Park; Denis Stuckey – Callington Road Local Nature Reserve; Angela Stuckey – Callington Road Local Nature Reserve; Cllr Gus Hoyt

**Agenda
Item**

Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions

Actions

	<u>Welcome and Introduction</u>	
1. 1.1	<u>Reports from Park Groups & AOB</u> Stoke Park – Mark Logan Consultation plan went out for feedback from 1 March – 4 April, not many attended events as hoped despite advertising. Responses collated, sent to steering group. Management Plan has been written, will be online soon, but still work ongoing to update it. Stoke Park does not have its own website yet, but has twitter and facebook page. Contact Steve England to be involved in Stoke Park. Steve can be contacted via his email address - newlook388@aol.com.	
1.2	Bristol 99 feedback – Matt, BNHC This was a 6 week project to discover/explore 99 best sites for nature in Bristol. Culminated in Festival of Nature. Evaluation of participation in festival is being undertaken by a UWE student, will be published when ready. Estimate 2000 people involved over 42 events. Found 786 species of wildlife during the project; more wildlife than thought would be found. Will it happen again? Planning to continue Bristol 99 in some format in future. Working toward a deadline of Aug 9 to place a lottery bid to run Bristol 99 project for 3 years.	
1.3	Festival of Nature 2013 Update – Matt/Rob 10 th annual Festival. Best in terms of content. 160 organisations involved. Attendance numbers not known yet (compiled by Bristol University). Held on harbourside; lots of activities involving wildlife. RAC raised that Parks forum had a stand there to promote Park groups and the Parks themselves. Maybe lost opportunity to promote Bristol's parks at this event by BCC itself. RF mentioned project to revamp website info with maps for Parks, showing historical info, facility info etc. An attendee wanted to know when FON would take place next year. Matt advised not known yet, would start planning in January 2014.	
1.4	European Green Capital 2015 – Rob RAC mentioned that money has been agreed by Cabinet this week for tree planting. Big opportunity for Parks and to get funds for Parks. Need to be aware of it and how it can be utilised to benefit Parks, need to think of ideas for Green Capital to launch capital bid, especially with cuts to Council budgets coming in over next 3 years. An attendee raised the possibility of Community Asset Transfers being used to hand over responsibility of some parks to other groups. GH advised they can be useful if used properly, but need to be careful that unwanted sites are not passed over.	

<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Tree Bristol Update – Richard Ennion</u></p> <p>There is long-term goal to have 30% tree canopy cover in Bristol. Also a pledge by Mayor to plant more trees; one for every primary school age child that would be 36,000 trees. This is also an education project. Tree planting programme in Cabinet bid for money, put in for £300,000+ extra money to meet tree planting target. Funding to come from council and private sector, eg business sponsorship. Will be working with schools on this project to promote the health and educational benefits of trees, and link schools to a green space.</p> <p>RF emphasised, after some discussion, that the Tree Bristol programme is in addition to the existing tree planting plans and planting events organised through the Neighbourhood Partnerships.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Bristol Parks Update – Richard Fletcher</p> <p>– Budget update, including feedback from workshops at last meeting and next stages.</p> <p>RF updated that info on budget will come through in autumn. Council to look at statutory and non-statutory services. Distributed workshop notes and showed outcome of responses.</p> <p>– Operations update</p> <p>RF advised that contract specification standards are not being met in either contracted out areas or in-house areas, so work needs to be done to improve this, but on the plus side Parks are not getting lots of calls from members of public about this. It is a very high spec we are monitoring against. Big push on grass cutting at moment due to hot weather and growth. Falling down on shrub beds and hard surfaces so need to improve here. Parks are in ongoing discussions with contractors about performance and have already suspended one payment to contractor. Parks are putting more resources into these areas.</p> <p>HH expressed the view that one reason for a lack of complaints is very little changes if you do, and that this is therefore a misleading measure of public satisfaction.</p> <p>JT commented that Parks are working to a really high specification and felt it was not a very constructive way of managing parks and green spaces.</p> <p>RF mentioned we do have to compare contracts and in-house teams, need to see monitoring scores improving.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>11.45 Protecting Green Spaces</p> <p>– Northern Slopes</p> <p>BF updated about the issues facing this area. Faced with reality of housing need, but feel it would be better met elsewhere. Have been involved with Knowle West planning forum. The planning outline has been approved, not happy about access but has been approved in any case. Concerned also about Kingswear Rd development (for private housing), but have met with developers, planning decision expected in September with work to start in October, looking to</p>	

	<p>tweak access arrangements before final decision.</p> <p>– Current Town Green Applications - Mark Logan 7 current applications in process at the moment including:- Ashton Vale Wellington Hill playing fields Easter Garden Stoke Lodge Crow Lane Laundry Fields Legislation now makes it difficult to get this status approved, not an easy process. All details on BCC website. http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/planning-and-building-regulations/town-and-village-greens and in the papers for the Public Rights of Way & Greens Committee (PROWG) via www.bristol.gov.uk/meetings</p> <p>Bye-Laws RF distributed some material from the website, about consultation on bye-laws to update Victorian bye-laws and give parks officers and police powers to tackle more issues. Received 263 responses so far, consultation runs until 13 September. Will not include dog issues, as there are other laws to tackle problems with dogs. http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-green-spaces-new-byelaws-consultation</p>	
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p>WP from Avon Gardens Trust advised about money received years ago from BCC for a project called 'Park Detectives'. It has been sitting in the bank account for years, £1,300.00 in total. RF suggested we offer it to the Parks Forum Groups to apply for grants. The projects need to be open access to all, say plant two trees, perhaps mend a small piece of play equipment. They should email WP (w.a.pollard@gmail.com) and she will email a form to apply for a grant.</p> <p>Issue was raised about Personal fitness training on Downs – Downs Committee looking to charge for this – concerned this will affect rest of Bristol, not consulted more widely – ensure Parks forum can be involved in this decision-making process.</p> <p>The Council can confirm the appointment of RF as Parks Operations Manager.</p>	
6..	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting–</u></p> <p>Sat 12th October 9.30am</p>	

	To be held at Windmill Hill City Farm	
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